

P261 on First Flight of Graph Zeppelin

Jacob Kisner (#2168)

The spectacular cover illustrated at the top of page 106 was carried on the first flight of the famous airship *Graf Zeppelin* (LZ127) poses an interesting enigma since two of the eight stamps on the cover, the *Scott Catalogue* number C11 just under the Air Mail Label and the *Scott Catalogue* number 600 to the left of C11 both have perfin P261, P/&W. (Note arrow) Consulting my copy of the *Catalog of United States Perfins*, Balough & Balough, I was surprised to find this pattern still unidentified.

Although a typed corner address gives the sender as Walther M. Rauschmayer, 25 Broad Street, Room 1101, New York City, there appears to be no apparent reason why the other two copies of C11 (and four of the definitives) are unperfinned. The question occurs: Was Mr. Rauschmayer using two copies of P261 legitimately, or is this a case of illegitimate use of a yet unidentified pattern? The address 25 Broad Street, New York City offers some speculative suggestions that Mr. Rauschmayer may have worked for a brokerage house or as an agent representing some company.

A heavy tome in my personal library called *Acronyms, Initialisms & Abbreviations Dictionary* (Gale Research Company, Detroit) which lists well over one thousand pages of company abbreviations has only one identification for the initials P & W, Pratt &



Whitney, the aircraft engine manufacturer. Could Mr. Rauchmayer have been employed in some capacity by Pratt & Whitney? Is our mysterious P261 the perfin of this aircraft parts manufacturer?

I offer here a few suggestions which may lead one of our members into finally discovering the true identity of the owner of P251.